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UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Ghana: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/200 and 45/253 of 21 December 1990, dealing, respectively, with commodities and programme planning, in which the economic recovery and development of Africa were spelt out as one of the five overall priorities in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/

Reaffirming its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Reaffirming also its resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993 on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Mindful of the need for African countries to diversify their economies, particularly their primary commodities, with a view to modernizing African production, distribution and marketing systems, enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing African export earnings in the face of the persistent instability of the prices of primary commodities, the continuous deterioration in the terms of trade of African commodities, the heavy burden of debt and debt service and their negative impact on African economies,

Noting with concern the continuous economic difficulties which African States encounter in their efforts to participate beneficially in world trade and dependency of many countries, particularly in Africa, on a limited number of commodities for their export earnings,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I, programme 45.

Recognizing the need for further progress in diversifying the economies of those countries in view, in particular, of the conclusion of the negotiations of the Uruguay Round and its negative impact on African economies,

Stressing the need to facilitate access to bilateral and multilateral financing for diversification projects in African countries and the least developed among them,

Acknowledging the positive impact of substantive official development assistance transfers to Africa,

Recognizing the important role the private sector can play in diversification projects and programmes,

Reaffirming the commitment on resource flows including private direct investment, as contained in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the New Agenda and the important role they play in identifying and launching sustainable diversification projects,

Noting the need of the Common Fund for Commodities to improve and to expand the operations of the Second Account,

Bearing in mind the ongoing negotiations on the replenishment of the African Development Fund, especially of the Technical Assistance Fund established within the African Development Bank,

Noting also that the development support of the Common Fund for Commodities accords highest priority to the least developed and small producer/exporter countries,

Taking note of the report transmitted by the Secretary-General on the need for and feasibility of the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and on issues of diversification of African economies, specifically, the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities, 2/

1. Reaffirms the high priority attached, in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to Africa's economic recovery and development, including the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s as integrated in programme 45; 1/

2. Urges all United Nations organs, organizations and programmes to integrate the priorities of the New Agenda in their mandates, to allocate sufficient resources for their operation and to improve further the use of available resources;

3. Recommends that, as part of capacity-building assistance, interested African countries be assisted in the monitoring of the impact of the work being undertaken in the context of the implementation of the New Agenda and in ensuring the participation of community-based groups, particularly women;

2/ A/48/335, annex, and Add.1 and 2.

4. Renews its call upon the international community to pursue vigorously its responsibilities and commitments under the New Agenda in order to provide full and tangible support to the African efforts;

5. Urges the multilateral financial institutions, recipient countries and donor countries, within the conceptual framework and design and implementation of structural adjustment policies in Africa, to pay special attention to eradicating poverty and addressing the social impact of these policies, while focusing on public investment, fiscal reform, reform of public enterprises, export expansion and efficient public administration;

6. Affirms the need for further efforts to promote the diversification of African economies;

7. Stresses the need to fill gaps that may exist in the funding available for diversification of related activities in Africa;

8. Urges the international community to increase financial resource flows to Africa, as these are crucial to regenerate growth and sustainable development of the African economies, to provide effective support to the political and economic reforms in which many African countries are now engaged and to help cushion adverse social impact;

9. Reaffirms the recommendations stipulated in paragraphs 23 to 28 of the New Agenda concerning Africa's debt problem, and in that context invites the international community to address Africa's external debt crisis and the debt problems of African countries, including continuing to give serious consideration to the proposal for the convening of an international conference on Africa's external indebtedness;

10. Urges States to implement the undertakings they have made to attain the agreed international targets of devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product to official development assistance and 0.15 per cent to least developed countries as soon as possible and to provide a better environment for the realization of the suggested estimate of the need to achieve an average of a 4 per cent real growth in annual financial resource flows to Africa, as outlined in paragraph 29 of the New Agenda;

11. Recognizes the urgent need to respond to the specific economic problems of African States in their efforts to diversify their economies and primary commodities, and the difficulty they encounter to utilize the financial mechanisms already existing within international organizations;

12. Invites the negotiating parties to the replenishment of the African Development Fund and Technical Assistance Fund existing with the African Development Bank to establish a window within the replenished Technical Assistance Fund with the initial new and additional financial resources of $50 to $75 million over a period of two to three years to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes by African countries;

13. Calls upon Member States and multilateral financial and trade institutions to commit firmly the resources needed to this window as soon as possible, taking into account the urgency of this matter;

14. Reiterates its encouragement to African countries to establish national diversification councils in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/214 regarding the issues of diversification of African economies, specifically the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities;

15. Decides to establish within the inter-agency task force, for the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, an advisory capacity to the African Development Bank for setting criteria for project and programme identification and modalities for the functioning of the window of the Technical Assistance Fund on diversification of Africa's commodities;

16. Invites the Governing Body of the Common Fund for Commodities, when considering the future activities of the Fund, to:

(a) Take into account the special needs of the African countries highly dependent on a narrow range of commodities for their export earnings in its support of commodity development;

(b) Consider support measures including feasibility studies aimed at diversifying their export sector;

(c) Review its access procedures and policies with a view to enabling African countries, inter alia, to make direct national approaches for financial support, including through regional and subregional bodies;

(d) Make adequate financial provisions for such support;

17. Invites the African Development Bank to elaborate a set of criteria for project identification and modalities for the effective functioning of the diversification window;

18. Invites donor countries to continue to emphasize, in their bilateral assistance programmes, the diversification of African economies, particularly commodities;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

20. Decides to include an item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s" in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session.